

NEW SOUTH WALES.

BUSINESS STATISTICS - JANUARY, 1942.

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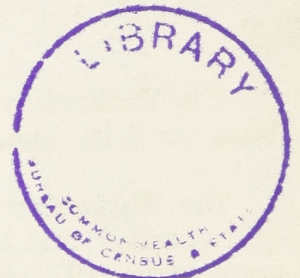
Employment: Total non-rural, November, 1942. Retail and Wholesale trade, commerce, transport etc., November 1942. Factory employment, November, 1942.

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PART I - PRIMARY & EXPORT INDUSTRIES.

GENERAL.

Seasonal Conditions. General rain during the week ended 27th January benefited almost the whole State. Though scattered in the far west and light on the south coast and in the metropolitan area, moderate to heavy falls were recorded in other divisions.

Warm but not unseasonal weather has been experienced. Pests are active. Under present conditions when feed is plentiful grasshoppers are not a serious menace but may prove so in the autumn.

Rural Organisation. In N.S.W. there are 34 agricultural committees covering the State. Aiding them are about 1,000 sub-committees. In most cases the Committees have been successful in organizing sufficient additional labour from local sources to carry out urgent tasks. In many districts soldiers volunteer for farm work on leave and rest days.

Miscellaneous. The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research is experimenting with tea growing in Australia.

Arrangements have been made for portable vegetable drying units to operate at Maitland and Griffith. Lucerne, a source of Vitamin C, is being dried for the troops.

A call has been made for temporary workers for canneries now approaching the seasonal peak of operations.

The British Ministry of Food has agreed, after consultation with Australian and South African authorities, that up to 500 tons of port and sherry wines will be taken from each Dominion. Shipment is subject to shipping space being available and not required for priority cargoes.

WOOL. Grazing conditions this season are favourable for the growth of the fleece.

The demand for sheep skins has weakened, especially for inferior lines, due to shortage of skilled fellmongering labour.

From March the allocation of wool for civilian purposes in Britain is to be further reduced. Mills are very busy on military orders. To prevent transfer of civilian demand to cotton and other goods control of these is also being tightened.

WHEAT.

The Victorian Department of Agriculture estimates the wheat harvest at 42 m. bus. or 2 m. bus. above recent forecasts. Production in 1941-42 was 47 m. bus.

The Victorian Grain Elevators Board is erecting emergency storages at Dunolly (6 m.bush.) and Murtoa (4.75 m.bus.). The Australian Wheat Board is erecting emergency bulk wheat storages at Geelong terminal (1.25 m.bus.) and Warracknabeal (1.5 m.bus.). The Elevators Board will complete the State bulk handling programme this year by erecting 18 country silos with a capacity of 1.814 m.bus. and the Williamstown terminal (2.6 m.bus.)

To encourage production and compensate growers for increased costs the South African Government as from 30th October, 1942 raised the price of home grown wheat. Class A (grade 1) wheat will be priced at 30s.6d. (S.African currency) per 200 lb.bag.

The 1943 F.a.q. wheat standard for N.S.W. has been fixed at 63 lb. to the imperial bushel compared with 64 lb. in 1942.

/DAIRY.....

DAIRY INDUSTRIES.

Butter produced in N.S.W. factories in November, 1942 was 11.3 m.lbs., an unusually large increase over the previous month resulting from the favourable turn of seasonal conditions. Production in the second half of 1942 will be greater than in the corresponding period of 1941 though the total for the eleven months ended November is nearly 9 m. lb. less than in 1941.

BUTTER PRODUCED - N.S.W. FACTORIES.

'000,000 lb.

Year	Whole Year.	Five months July-Nov.	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.
1939	120.5	43.9	6.6	6.4	7.3	10.2	13.5
1940	98.4	32.7	5.0	5.0	6.5	8.0	8.2
1941	98.7	30.5	4.6	4.6	5.9	7.5	7.9
1942	-	35.2	5.2	5.3	6.0	7.5	11.3

According to the Minister for Commerce, stocks of butter in reserve are large and Australia is in a position to meet Britain's requirements. Butter and cheese supplies in Britain are reported to be satisfactory.

Quotas of butter and cheese available for local consumption in February, 1943 were fixed at 47% and 52% respectively against 44% and 42½% for January. (See table B.S. 1942/11B).

Pay in December, 1942 to suppliers of cream to certain North Coast butter factories was at the rate of 13½d. per lb., the same as in the previous five months. Returns to cream producers throughout this period will be supplemented by the dairy industry subsidy.

N.S.W. BUTTER - PAY TO CREAM SUPPLIERS.BY CERTAIN NORTH COAST FACTORIES.

Pence per lb. of commercial butter made.

Year	Deferred Pay ★		Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	July-Dec.	Jan.-June					
1934/35	$\frac{3}{4}$	$\frac{3}{4}$	10	9	8	7½	7½
1938/39	5/16	1.06	14	12¾	12	11½	11¼
1939/40	$\frac{3}{4}$	1¾	12	12¼	12	11¾	12
1940/41	$\frac{3}{4}$	1	13	13	12⅝	12¾	12¾
1941/42	½	1	13	12⅞	12⅝	12⅝	12½
1942/43	x	-	13½	13½	13½	13½	13½

★ Add to monthly pay.

x Not available.

The report of the expert committee appointed by the Commonwealth Government in mid-1942 to inquire into the dairy industry has been tabled. The Committee recommended increases in price, viz: 3⅞d. per lb. for butter for home consumption and 3d. per lb. for export and 2d. per lb. for cheese. The increased prices would have given the farmer a return of 1/5½ per lb. of commercial butter. The Government decided against increasing prices and provided a £2 m. p.a. subsidy.

GOLD PRODUCTION.

Gold produced in N.S.W. in the eleven months ended November, 1942 was 68,343 ozs. fine valued at £714,500. The corresponding figures in 1941 were 80,358 ozs. and £858,700.

/PART II.....

PART II - FINANCE AND TRADE

GENERAL. The Federal Treasurer has given notice of Income Assessment and Rates Bills to be introduced into Parliament this week.

The Council of the City of Sydney has fixed the city rate for 1943 at $\frac{427}{32}$ d. in the £ or the same as last year. The surplus in 1942 was £17,000 excluding amounts to be recouped from the State Government on account of N.E.S. expenditure.

SHARE PRICES.

Share price indexes compiled by the Government Statistician rose in December, 1942 for all five groups. Only Public Utilities and Insurance shares are below the August, 1939 level. Manufacturing and Distributing is the only group in which the index exceeds the level in March, 1937, the over-all record month.

INDEX OF SHARE PRICES - SYDNEY.

Prices of ordinary shares - excl. banks. Par value = 100.

(Compiled by N.S.W. Govt. Statistician).

Average for Month	Manufacturing & Distributing	Retail	Public Utilities	Pastoral & Finance	Insurance	Total 75 Companies	34 Active Shares
1937 - Mar.	214	204	181	169	281	190 (a)	201
1939 - Aug.	213	168	156	118	264	174	182
1941 - Sept.	228	177	142	128	253	175	191
- Dec.	204	160	138	118	241	161	171
1942 - Jan.	199	154	136	116	236	157	166
June	184	146	117	116	216	147	157
Oct.	216	159	126	128	242	165	181
Nov.	221	163	131	128	243	168	184
Dec.	227	171	133	132	249	173	191

(a) Highest point recorded.

The Sydney Stock Exchange Research Bureau's index of prices of industrial shares (1934 = 100) was 124.60 on Jan. 1st, 1943; 129.20 on Jan. 30th and 129.29 on Feb. 3rd, 1943. Current prices of most active shares are at maximum limits and sales are few.

BOND YIELDS AND MORTGAGE RATES.

The yield on Commonwealth bonds subject to current taxation and maturing in 5 - 10 years averaged 3.17% throughout 1941 and 3.22% in 1942. During 1942 individual months showed only negligible variations. At the end of January, 1943 the yield on these bonds remained at 3.22%.

The weighted average rate of interest on rural first mortgages registered in 1942 was 4.9%, the same as in 1941, but urban mortgages showed a decline from 5.5 to 5.4%. Very low rates were recorded for transactions in December, 1942 and January, 1943. The three months weighted average rate on rural securities fell sharply to 4.6% and then to 4.2%. In the case of urban securities the corresponding rates fell 0.1% in each month.

YIELD.....

YIELD ON COMMONWEALTH BONDS AND MORTGAGE RATES.

Period	COMMONWEALTH BONDS.	FIRST MORTGAGES. ϕ	
	Maturing in 5-10 years. Taxed at full Commonwealth Rates.	Rural Securities.	Urban Securities.
	%	%	%
1939	Not available	5.2	5.6
1940	3.15 (nine months)	5.1	5.6
1941	3.17	4.9	5.5
1942	3.22	4.9	5.4
1941-Nov.	3.18	4.9	5.5
Dec.	3.22	4.9	5.5
1942-June	3.22	4.9	5.4
-Nov.	3.21	4.9	5.4
-Dec.	3.22	4.6	5.3
1943-Jan.	3.22	4.2	5.2

ϕ Weighted average rate. Where shown for a monthly period, rate is weighted average in the three months ended month shown.

TRADING BANKS.

During December, 1942, the Australian trading banks' deposits (£422.8 m.) increased by £4 m. and advances (£244.4 m.) decreased by £4.7 m. continuing the trend of recent months. Cash etc. (£46.6 m.) fell by £3.1 m. bringing the ratio of cash to deposits down to 11.1% or nearer pre-war levels. £4 m. was invested in Treasury Bills, of which the trading banks now hold £64 m., and £9.2 m. was added to special War-time Deposits with the Commonwealth Bank (£64.1 m.)

BANK CLEARINGS.

Sydney bank clearings in 1942 were £1,248.5 m. or $9\frac{1}{2}\%$ above 1941. Clearings attained very high levels in the second half of the year. The index number of bank clearings in 1942 was 131 compared with 120 in the previous year.

INTER-BANK CLEARINGS - SYDNEY.

Excl. Treasury Bill transactions.

Year	AMOUNT.		INDEX NUMBERS (Base: Av. corresp. period 1926-30 = 100)	
	December	Year ended December.	Dec. Quarter	Calendar Year.
	£m.	£m.	Index	Index
1938	88.1	942.4	102	101
1939	91.7	932.3	106	100
1940	100.1	1,074.8	115	113
1941	104.9	1,139.4	124	120
1942	121.6	1,248.5	136	131

(The index is adjusted to eliminate the effects of special Government transactions, as well as Treasury Bills)

SAVINGS BANK. deposits in N.S.W. increased by £315,000 in December, 1942. There is often a net reduction in deposits during December. The total increase during 1942 was £14.1 m. and at the end of the year the amount of deposits - £105.7 m. - was the highest yet recorded. Sales of War Savings Certificates in N.S.W. were £281,000 (net) in November and £360,000 in December, 1942 and the total for the year was £3,494,000.

In the whole of Australia, savings bank deposits increased by £42,916,000 and net sales of W.S.C. by £9,923,000 in 1942.

/REAL.....

REAL ESTATE.

Sales of real estate in N.S.W. in December (An.1.26) and January (An.1.23) last showed a sharp fall to about half the level of sales a year earlier.

After April, 1942 the amount of real estate business transactions recorded in the official registers was reduced by the operation of restrictions on investment. The regulation of building reduced indirectly the amount of mortgages. Total consideration of real estate sales in 1942 was £21.6 m. and mortgages registered (incl. renewals) amounted to £8.0 m. compared with £33.2 m. and £15.6 m. in 1941.

REAL ESTATE SALES AND MORTGAGES - N.S.W.

£ - Thousands.

Year	SALES.				MORTGAGES (a)			
	Monthly Average	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Monthly Average	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.
1938/39	2,939	2,671	2,797	2,449	2,089	2,153	2,565	1,591
1940/41	2,706	2,430	2,477	2,383	1,274	1,259	1,099	1,147
1941/42	2,437	2,548	2,973	2,815	1,070	1,022	1,242	916
1942/43	1,538*	1,942	1,260	1,226	529*	530	562	595

* Seven months July-January.

(a) Incl. renewals.

WHOLESALE TRADE.

Sales at wholesale by registered traders during November, 1942 totalled £19.5 m. about the same as in September. The influence of Commonwealth Government purchases (exempt from tax) is shown by the rise in October and fall in November of sales of goods in this category.

WHOLESALE TRADE, N.S.W.

Sales by traders registered under Sales Tax Acts.

Total, taxable and exempt goods.

	<u>1938</u>	<u>1939</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1941</u>	<u>1942</u>
Sales - £ million.					
<u>Calendar Year</u>	193.0	200.3	202.8	229.0	-
Quarter-March Qr.	45.7	45.6	47.9	50.7	57.6
-June Qr.	48.7	48.1	49.8	59.6	58.8
-Sept. Qr.	49.6	55.1	53.7	59.1	59.6
Month - Aug.	15.3	16.8	17.2	20.4	20.9
- Sept.	17.5	19.4	17.5	21.6	19.6
- Oct.	15.7	19.2	18.5	18.3	22.1
- Nov.	16.9	17.5	18.1	20.6	19.5

RETAIL TRADE.

Retail sales in Nov., 1942 by a group of large Sydney stores were 16.3% below the previous year. Girl's and children's wear was the only section of rationed goods for which higher sales than in 1941 were recorded in November, 1942.

The value of stock in hand (at cost) was 1.2% less than a year earlier.

There was little seasonal expansion in retail employment.

/Consequently.....

Consequently the number of employees was as much as 18.9% less than in the previous year.

The Department of War Organization of Industry is developing plans for the rationalisation of retail trade (not individual stores) with a view to the release of as many employees as possible.

RETAIL TRADE - SYDNEY.

Percentage increase from corresponding period of the previous year.

Period	Net Value of Sales.	Value of Stock.	Wages & Salaries Paid.	Number of Employees.
1939	+ 2.4	+ 2.0	+ 2.6	+ 0.9
1940	+ 6.3	+ 17.0	+ 4.0	+ 1.9
1941	+ 14.6	+ 8.0	+ 9.0	+ 4.0
Sept. Qr.-1941	+ 15.4	+ 10.4	+ 10.9	+ 4.1
" " 1942	(-) 6.0	+ 11.1	(-) 10.0	(-) 13.7
1942 - Mar.	+ 25.9	+ 11.5	+ 4.6	+ 0.6
June	(-) 19.1	+ 10.5	(-) 1.7	(-) 10.9
Aug.	+ 5.7	+ 13.4	(-) 8.5	(-) 12.5
Sept.	(-) 7.0	+ 5.9	(-) 9.5	(-) 13.3
Oct.	(-) 17.3	+ 2.1	(-) 13.0	(-) 15.1
Nov.	(-) 16.3	(-) 1.2	(-) 14.4	(-) 18.9

(-) Denotes decrease.

Margins for retailers of apples and pears have been fixed by the Prices Commissioner varying from 25% on bushel lots to 50% on small quantities.

Tobacco quotas for civilian trade in February, 1943 will be on the basis of 1/12th base-year supplies reduced by 35% (instead of 25%). The reduction is due to the decline in stocks of imported leaf. Less of the higher-grade qualities will be made available to the trade.

PART III - INDUSTRIES.GENERAL.

As a result of the establishment of a priorities system in the U.S. for the most efficient distribution of materials among the Allied Nations, many firms in Australia are being asked to supply detailed information of stocks and production. Government forward programmes showing requirements to the end of 1944 will be used as the basis for planning production and allocations.

EMPLOYMENT.

The estimated total number of non-rural wage and salary earners (excl. household domestics) employed in N.S.W. at the end of November 1942 was 765,300. There was a net increase of 900 over October viz.: an increase of 2,200 females and a decrease of 1,300 males. The decrease in males employed, the increase in females were about equally distributed between public and private employers.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

ESTIMATED TOTAL NON-RURAL WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS EMPLOYED (EXCL. HOUSEHOLD DOMESTIC)
(Includes Civil Constructional Corps)

End of Month.	MALES			FEMALES			TOTAL		
	Government (C/wealth, State & Local).	Private Employers	Total	Government (C/wealth, State & Local).	Private Employers	Total	Government (C/wealth, State & Local).	Private Employers	Total
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
1939-July	136.5	399.1	535.6	19.4	141.3	160.7	155.9	540.4	696.3
1941-July	141.5	419.5	561.0	21.7	186.8	208.5	163.2	606.3	769.5
Sept.	143.4	426.7	570.1	22.3	189.8	212.1	165.7	616.5	782.2
Oct.	143.7	425.4	569.1	22.7	192.1	214.8	166.4	617.5	783.9
Nov.	144.3	425.1	569.4	23.0	194.8	217.8	167.3	619.9	787.2
1942-Mar.	148.9	405.3	554.2	25.0	197.1	222.1	173.9	602.4	776.3
July	154.8	384.3	539.1	28.1	197.0	225.1	182.9	581.3	764.2
Sept.	153.3	381.9	535.2	30.1	196.9	227.0	183.4	578.8	762.2
Oct.	153.6	379.8	533.4	31.7	199.3	231.0	185.3	579.1	764.4
Nov.	152.9	379.2	532.1	32.7	200.5	233.2	185.6	579.7	765.3

(Excludes persons on military leave).

The trend of employment in N.S.W. in certain broad industrial classifications is shown in the table below. The numbers shown do not represent the total wage and salary earners employed in the industries. Manufacturing employment is shown later.

More women were employed by road transport services in November but in road and rail transport there was a decline in males employed.

In the retail trade there was a very slight seasonal expansion in female employment while male employment continued to fall. There were reduced numbers employed in banking, insurance and wholesale trade while primary produce brokers and agents were seasonally busier and employed more.

NEW SOUTH WALES.EMPLOYMENT OF WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS AS RECORDED BY EMPLOYERSON PAY ROLL TAX RETURNS. ϕ

(Thousands).

Last y Day in Month.	Employees recorded by employers whose principal activity is:													
	Mining & Quarrying		Building & Constr- uction(a)		Transport (excl. shipping)		Retail Trade		Wholesale Trade		Other Commerce & Finance(b)		Personal Service (excl.household domestics).(c)	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1941-July	21.7	0.1	20.5	0.5	60.7	2.7	31.9	31.8	29.1	10.0	20.9	9.8	16.3	20.3
Sept.	21.8	0.2	20.4	0.5	61.5	2.8	31.8	31.6	29.2	10.6	22.2	10.0	16.8	21.1
Oct.	21.5	0.2	19.5	0.5	62.0	2.9	31.5	32.3	29.6	10.9	22.4	10.2	16.8	21.4
Nov.	21.7	0.2	19.3	0.5	62.0	3.0	32.1	33.8	29.3	11.1	21.6	10.5	16.7	21.5
1942-Mar.	21.2	0.2	19.9	0.5	62.3	3.3	28.5	33.1	27.6	10.0	18.4	11.3	15.1	21.5
June	21.1	0.2	18.2	0.5	62.4	3.4	25.6	32.6	25.4	11.2	17.4	11.6	13.5	21.4
Aug.	21.2	0.2	16.5	0.5	62.7	3.6	24.4	31.9	25.0	11.4	16.9	11.7	13.0	21.6
Sept.	21.1	0.2	15.5	0.5	62.3	3.6	24.0	31.6	25.6	11.6	17.1	11.7	12.7	21.5
Oct.	21.3	0.2	15.5	0.5	62.8	3.8	23.6	31.8	24.9	11.5	17.3	11.7	12.7	21.7
Nov.	21.1	0.2	15.6	0.5	62.5	4.0	23.5	32.2	24.6	11.5	17.4	11.8	12.7	21.6

ϕ Pay-Roll Tax returns are submitted by all employers (except C/wealth Govt., Charities etc.) whose pay-roll exceeds £20 per wk.

- (a) Excl. large numbers employed on Construction by Govt. authorities.
- (b) Incl. wool and produce brokers, banks, insurance and commerce n.e.i.
- (c) Incl. hotels, restaurants, entertainment, professional and personal service.

Applications for permission to employ more than one servant have been received by the Man Power Directorate from 1,108 persons in N.S.W. The number of servants involved is 1,728.

The Women's Land Army in N.S.W. numbers 1,500 and it is to be enlarged to 3,000. An urgent call has been made for aid in harvesting the fruit.

Two hundred women volunteers for Victorian canneries and South Australian munition factories have left Sydney.

About 2,000 N.S.W. carpenters are required for high priority work and a check is being made of the present employment of these tradesmen.

The conference of Deputy-Directors of Manpower in Melbourne has reaffirmed the policy of encouraging voluntary movement from non-essential to priority work. Nevertheless the new powers to direct labour will be used if necessary to provide manpower for essential industry and the Army.

FACTORY EMPLOYMENT.

The estimated number of persons employed in factories and works in N.S.W. (incl. working proprietors) was 302,400 in November, 1942. There were increases in both total males and total females employed. The arms and aeroplane industries and food, drink etc. accounted for nearly all the increase. There was a substantial decrease in employment in clothing manufacture whereas normally such employment would reach a seasonal peak in November.

The expansion of total factory employment in November raised the index (1938/39 = 100) to 132.

The founding, engineering, vehicles and aircraft industries now employ half the total factory employees.

/N.S.W.

N.S.W. - FACTORY EMPLOYMENT.

(Including Working Proprietors).

Period	NO. OF EMPLOYEES (Thousands)									Index Numbers (1938/39Av.=100)		
	1938/39			1941/42*			1942/43*			1940/41	1941/42	1942/43
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.			
Sept.	166.3	61.8	228.1	214.9	77.1	292.0	214.7	84.3	299.0	111	128	131
Oct.	166.5	62.3	228.8	215.3	77.9	293.1	214.3	86.1	300.4	113	128	131
Nov.	166.6	62.4	229.0	216.5	78.6	295.1	215.2	87.2	302.4	115	129	132
Dec.	166.2	62.2	228.4	215.5	78.1	293.6				116	128	
Mar.	167.0	62.0	229.0	215.8	80.8	296.6				121	130	
June	166.9	60.4	227.3	214.4	81.3	295.7				123	129	
Av. Whole Year	167.2	61.6	228.8	214.5	78.7	293.2	-	-	-	116	128	

* Subject to revision.

Styles of footwear manufactured in Australia are to be further curtailed. It will be compulsory to brand all boots and shoes so that designs which it is not possible to repair will not be marketed.

Rationing of shoes throughout U.S.A. has been announced.

The index of consumption of gas and electricity in December, 1942 was a record. The index was 172 compared with 163 a month earlier and 153 in December, 1941. The index for the year 1942 was 154 or 6 points higher than the index for 1941.

<u>INDEX OF GAS & ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION.</u>	<u>Year ended Dec.</u>			<u>Dec.</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>Dec.</u>
	<u>1939</u>	<u>1941</u>	<u>1942</u>	<u>1941</u>	<u>1942</u>	<u>1942</u>	<u>1942</u>
(Base: Av. correspond month 1929-31 = 100).	131	148	154	153	152	163	172

RAILWAYS.

Government railway operations for the first five months of the financial year show increases in tonnage of freight and in passengers carried. Revenue and working costs have increased substantially. However the working surplus so far this financial year is 43% above the previous year.

<u>1942.</u>	<u>Tonnage of G. & L. mill.</u>	<u>Gross Revenue £m.</u>	<u>Working Surplus £000</u>	<u>Passengers mill.</u>
Aug.	1.70	2.85	1,221	19.9
Sept.	1.72	3.14	417	18.7
Oct.	1.73	3.00	1,177	19.3
Nov.	1.65	2.72	1,002	20.0

N.S.W. GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS.

Year	Month of November.				Five months ended November			
	Tonnage of Goods & Livestock	Gross Revenue	Excess of Earnings over Working Expenses	Passenger Journeys.	Tonnage of Goods and Livestock	Gross Revenue	Excess of Earnings over Working Expenses	Passenger Journeys
	'00	£000	£000	million	'000	£000	£000	million
1939	1,355	1,737	585	14.4	7,106	8,612	2,745	74.1
1940	1,586	1,931	661	15.5	8,393	10,073	3,853	78.0
1941	1,589	2,089	603	17.8	7,611	10,716	3,445	88.4
1942	1,647	2,715	1,002	20.0	8,451	14,427	4,925	96.2

ø Excl. int., s.f. & exch. (£6,570,000) in 1941/42.

/GOVERNMENT.....

GOVERNMENT TRAMS & BUSES.

For the five months July-Nov., 1942 tramway and omnibus passengers were 2.7% above 1941. Revenue showed only a small increase but working expenses rose by 10.2% and the working surplus was £266,000 compared with £379,000 in 1941.

'Bus routes are to be reorganised in order to reduce consumption of rubber, oil etc.

N.S.W. GOVERNMENT TRAMS AND ONMIBUSES -SYDNEY & NEWCASTLE

Year	Month of November.				Five months ended November.			
	Earnings	Working Expenses *	Excess of Earnings over working Expenses*	Passenger Journeys φ	Earnings	Working Expenses	Excess of Earnings over Working Expenses*	Passenger Journeys φ
	£000	£000	£000	million	£000	£000	£000	million
1939	369	309	60	31.6	1,798	1,544	254	152.6
1940	394	315	79	34.3	1,898	1,569	329	163.2
1941	447	371	76	39.6	2,209	1,830	379	196.0
1942	460	394	66	40.9	2,283	2,017	266	201.4

* Exclusive of interest, sinking fund, exchange and current depreciation (£605,000 in 1941/42).

φ Excl. Sydney Harbour Bridge section trips.

MOTOR VEHICLES.

There was a rise in December, 1942 in the number of motor vehicles on the registers in N.S.W. Details are shown below.

Unless it can be shown that the vehicles will be used on essential work, new liquid fuel licences will not be issued for commercial vehicles. This warning is directed to persons buying second-hand vehicles for the purpose of obtaining additional petrol.

N.S.W. MOTOR VEHICLES ON REGISTER AND NEW REGISTRATIONS.

Number registered -		Aug. 1939	Nov. 1941	Dec. 1941	Oct. 1942	Nov. 1942	Dec. 1942.
Cars	('000)	216.6	190.7	188.6	170.3	170.8	172.0
Lorries	('000)	77.6	75.3	75.5	70.7	70.9	71.3
Cycles	('000)	24.0	19.5	18.9	14.9	14.8	14.8
Total	('000)	329.2	297.7	295.2	267.1	267.6	269.2
(incl. other)							

New Vehicles Registered -Av. Weekly Number:

Cars and Cabs.	322	43	16	21	18	12
Lorries and Vans.	146	52	7	4	5	2

BUILDINGS COMMENCED.

The value of buildings commenced in the Metropolitan Water Board area in 1942 was £3,984,000 equal to about a third of the 1941 figure. Business premises (incl. factories) and "miscellaneous" (incl. hospitals, defence buildings etc.) absorbed £2,350,000 or 81.6% compared with 23.8% for these groups in 1941. Government building represented a much higher proportion of the value of all buildings commenced in the area.

/During.....

During the year the construction of 639 dwellings was undertaken compared with 7,177 in 1941.

BUILDINGS COMMENCED - METROPOLITAN WATER BOARD AREA.

Period	Dwelling Houses (excl. Flats.) No.	VALUE OF BUILDINGS COMMENCED - £'000						
		Dwelling Houses.	Flats.	Business Premises (a)	Misc.	T O T A L.		
						City	Suburbs	Total
1939	7,341	5,967	1,855	3,130	955	1,800	10,107	11,907
1940	7,161	6,157	2,341	2,795	1,581	1,545	11,329	12,874
1941	7,177	6,556	2,450	1,738	1,074	706	11,112	11,818
1942	639	653	81	2,350	900	354	3,630	3,984
1941-Dec.	361	309	45	82	92	18	510	528
1942-Jan.	334	294	57	66	99	13	503	516
June	30	19	-	775	48	81	761	842
Oct.	19	16	-	131	94	16	225	241
Nov.	22	11	2	171	10	39	155	194
Dec.	20	8	-	53	261	18	304	322

(a) Includes factories.